

KING OF COOKS FREE BY BLACK.

Record of George W. Post,
Partner of Tom O'Brien,
Murderer.

HE PLAYED HIGH STAKES.
His Swindles Mounted Into Thou-
sands, and Were Deftly
Designed.

OW HE BUNCOED OLD MR. PECK.

O'Brien, Aided by Post, Introduced the
Wealthy Albanian to a New
Card Game and Won
\$10,000 from Him.

The announcement that Governor Black had released the swindler from Clinton Prison, on the ground that he was a successful business man, and second only in his cleverness to the notorious Tom O'Brien, the "King of Bunco Men," was received with open-mouthed astonishment by the police of this city yesterday.

The commutation by the Governor of Post's ten year sentence was ascribed to political pull and nothing else, for Post's record is so rich in swindling schemes as to be only exceeded by that of O'Brien himself.

Captain McCluskey, when a detective-sergeant, and "Mike" Crowley, arrested the King of bunco men, O'Brien, for swindling John M. Peck, of Albany, out of \$10,000. In this job, O'Brien's able confederate was this same George W. Post who was released last Wednesday from the State prison at the instance of the Governor.

Post, the police say, is too active and enterprising a crook to remain long idle. To Captain McCluskey and the able historian of the Police Department "Bill" Sheehy, the Journal is indebted for the following account of the career of George W. Post, bunco artist:

"Post is no ordinary crook. He numbered among his associates, from O'Brien to Byrne, could only photograph with the assistance of six of his detectives. 'Joe' Howard and 'Sam' Whelan, both of whom were released from the State prison four months ago, 'Doc' Almon, who assisted O'Brien to escape from Auburn prison, 'Pete' Conkling, bunco artist, 'Red' Austin, Lewis Ludlum, also known as 'Little Lew,' Tom Devine, Dan Scrivner and others.

Post's Biggest Job.
The biggest job Post and O'Brien ever worked together was the swindling of John M. Peck, a wealthy real estate dealer of Albany, who, at the time he fell into their hands, was eighty-one years old.

Post became acquainted with Peck by representing him as an attorney and brother of the Hon. Erasmus Corning. He gained Mr. Peck's confidence and then told him that he was very anxious to buy a \$10,000 down in cash. Peck showed the supposed 'Mr. Corning' a house on Clinton street, Albany, and the latter declared he would buy it. He invited Mr. Peck to go with him to the office of the Western Mortgage Loan Company, on State street, where, he said, he could get the money.

The offices of the Western Mortgage Loan Company were large and imposing, but the staid man in spectacles who was found in charge, busily poring over some papers, was not at all what one would expect to find in such a place. Mr. Peck, who was an inveterate card player, was fascinated with the prospect and when asked to draw the money, he drew eight cards and Corning drew the same number.

O'Brien added the figures together and looked at the squares on the black silk handkerchief bearing the numbers corresponding with the totals in each man's hand.

"You've drawn the Grand Conditional Advertising Prize, gentlemen," said he after a moment's reflection, and he entitled to \$10,000 apiece, on condition that you prove yourselves worth \$50,000 apiece and promise to advertise in my literary company, whether you win or lose.

You will have to put in \$1,000 apiece again, and you draw a stir number you get only the \$10,000 prize and your money back. If you draw any other number, you get its price added to your own money and the big prize.

"Corning" looked at Mr. Peck and winked and then said he was worth from \$50,000 to \$80,000. Peck declared he was worth all the way from \$50,000 to \$80,000, and asked that the game proceed.

Each man drew four cards, which in each case added up to 28. O'Brien looked over to Peck and said:

"That's the Grand State number, gentlemen, the total blank. You've lost all, and I've gathered in Mr. Peck's \$10,000." Corning (Post) protested warmly, and Peck also. Then the two went away together. In the street Post got rid of his new-found wealthy friend and returned to O'Brien, and the two left town without delay.

Post's Record in the West.
Previous to this Post had operated in the West. He never played for small stakes.

On March 21, 1891, he was arrested for swindling Utah C. Vermillion, one of the wealthiest citizens of Madison County, Idaho, by means of the "gold brick game." Post might have secured \$20,000 in this game but for one stroke of ill luck which seemed to pursue "artists" of his calibre.

He called upon Vermillion one day with a letter of introduction purporting to be from the latter's daughter, in which she described him as a long-lost cousin. Vermillion was attracted by the new-found nephew, and took him into his house.

Then Post confided to his "uncle" that he had a gold mine in Arizona, and offered to take the old man into partnership. He said that if Vermillion would go with him to Muncie, Ind., he would show him specimen bricks of the ore taken from the mine.

Vermillion was so taken with the scheme that he induced his son Jesse, one of the proprietors of the Anderson Banking Company, to go into it with him. All hands loaded themselves with money and drove to a spot about a mile south of Muncie, where they found the bricks guarded by an Indian.

The two Vermillions were delighted with the appearance of the bricks, and when Post suggested that they should be tested by an assayer, their confidence was truly shaken. Post took the bricks, which were plugged in the centre with pure gold, to his confederate, "Doc" Biggs, who, of course, pronounced them genuine.

So Saved His Father.
The swindle seemed sure until Jesse Vermillion, who had become suspicious, rushed out and declared that his father was being robbed. Post and Biggs fled. In subsequent trials the bricks were found in an express office addressed to the elder Vermillion. They were at last brass covered with gold foil, and weighed thirty-five pounds each. If

sold at their original figure they would have netted the swindlers \$20,000.

Post never seemed to have any difficulty in getting large bail whenever he was arrested, and he generally jumped his bail away.

The police say that Post was backed in his swindling by wealthy sporting men who were prepared to stand the loss when the sharper jumped his bail.

On August 31, 1888, he was arrested in Boston by Chief Watts for swindling David Symonds, of that city, out of \$3,000. Post is said, again jumped his bail and got free.

He was again arrested at Washington Court House, Ohio, May 25, 1889, for swindling Samuel Kaufman out of \$6,000. O'Brien, who was his confederate then, also was arrested at the same time.

Post and a man named Watson tried the state swindle on October 5, 1889, upon Charles H. Morton, a wealthy man of Mount Lookout, O. They were arrested and held in heavy bail. Both jumped their bail and fled to Chicago, where they got into fresh trouble, but succeeded in "squirreling" themselves through the efforts of powerful friends.

Such, in part, is the record of the man who was released from prison last Wednesday on a commutation of his sentence by the Governor of the State, who, on June 21, cut off a year and six months from Post's sentence of ten years.

O'Brien, to whom Post has often been compared, in point of brains and daring, now serving a life sentence in a French prison for the murder of "Kid" Waddell in the Gare du Nord, Paris, on March 29, 1895.

\$5,000,000 IN DIVIDENDS.
Enormous Profits of the Western-house Air Brake Company.

The Board of Directors of the Western-house Air Brake Company at its general office at Wilmerding, have declared a stock dividend of 100 per cent, amounting to \$5,000,000, and transferred to the treasury the sum of \$1,000,000 in stock to be issued by the directors from time to time for the purchase of property or other uses as may be deemed best by the board.

This enormous dividend is in addition to a cash dividend of 50 per cent, or \$2,500,000, declared within the past year. America is full of rich men, rich corporations and companies that make tremendous profits, but no corporation or firm in the world has ever made this enormous profit that has this association of men during the past twelve months.

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The net earnings of the company for the past ten years, are stated to be \$17,500,000, of which the cash dividend has been \$14,500,000. The stock dividend will be distributed as soon as the necessary certificates can be prepared.—Pittsburg Post.

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"He'll be drowned," she wailed; "he'll be drowned!"

Just then the waters parted and the head of the victim of the accident appeared above the surface. Coughing and spluttering, he looked toward the agitated old lady.

"Drowned, you old idiot," he roared, "drowned!"

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He—If I were to drop out of your life I wonder if you would remember me?
She—Of course I would. I have a most excellent memory.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

SAY "DAMN!" AND IT MAY COST YOU \$2.

Council Adopts Guggenheim-
er's Anti-Profanity
Resolution.

VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.
The Aldermen Are Expected to
Follow Suit at the
Next Meeting.

To Stop Public Swearing.

Resolved, That under the provisions of section 49, sub-section 22, of the charter, the use of profane, vile or obscene language in any public street or place within the limits of the City of New York, or any public transportation car, ferryboat or other public conveyance operated within the limits of said city, shall constitute a misdemeanor, and that the person using such profane, vile or obscene language shall be liable, within the cognizance and jurisdiction of the magistrates' courts of the City of New York, to a fine of not more than \$10 and not less than \$2. This ordinance to take effect immediately.

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